

Al-Quds Open University



Historical Establishment

Al-Quds Open University (QOU) is an administratively, academically and financially independent public University. In 1975, the requirement of the Palestinians for higher education in accordance with their demographic, social and economic situation under the Israeli occupation generated the idea of establishing a university that would match the needs of the local community. Consequently, upon the request of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, UNESCO conducted a feasibility study in 1980 to initiate with the project. The study was later approved by UNESCO General Conference and later by the Palestinian National Council in 1981, but the execution of the project was delayed until 1985 due to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

In 1985, a temporary headquarter in Amman was founded with the approval of the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. From 1985 till 1991, the efforts were focused on preparing comprehensive study plans for different academic specializations, faculties, and the production of educational materials such as textbooks and teaching aids (mainly audio and visual ones).

After designing the academic programs, the university commenced its educational services at its new headquarter in Ramallah in 1991, and gradually introduced branches in major Palestinian cities. The number of enrolled students began with hundreds, and annually increased to reach 56,000 students by the end of the first semester of the Academic Year 2016/2017. The first graduates of the University received their certificates in 1997.

The University faced two major challenging events while laying its foundation. First, the first Intifada (civil uprising) in 1987 in response to the Israeli occupation. Second, the First Gulf War and its destructive economic and political consequences on the Palestinian society. However, the University continued to adhere to its principles and mission, inspired by the strong will of its previous leaders, to ensure that the University will always remain a vital source of education. The University later faced another challenge which is the second Intifada in 2000. Due to the unstable political situation at the time, students were not able to access universities outside their cities, so the number of enrolled students at the University doubled which reinforced the role of the University in disseminating education using open learning approach.

The University sought and is still seeking to spread open learning and E-learning in particular, not only in Palestine, but also in the entire Arab world to access larger number of beneficiaries,

students, trainees, and those seeking knowledge and education. The University is keen on promoting freedom of thought, opinion, creativity, innovation and excellence.

Overview

Al-Quds Open University (QOU) is the only academic institution in Palestine which has been intensively implementing all modes of e-Learning into its teaching and learning practices. QOU adopts the open learning approach for its educational policy and blended learning approach. Consequently, it combines between traditional classrooms and virtual classes. It is one of the largest universities in Palestine having a student body of more than fifty six thousands students in eight academic programs distributed across 18 branches in West Bank and Gaza. Over the past years, QOU mainly managed its academic programs through Moodle, a Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Virtual Learning Environment. The open source and community-based learning tools enable the management of student's online activities for several courses, which begin with learning practices and ends with assessments and evaluation of students work. Furthermore, QOU uses Learning Management System (LMS) platform to offer several self-study online courses.

Faculties of QOU:

- Faculty of Technology and Applied sciences.
- Faculty of Agriculture.
- Faculty of Social and Family Development.
- Faculty of Administrative Sciences and Economics.
- Faculty of Educational Sciences.
- Faculty of Media.
- Faculty of Arts.
- Faculty of Graduate Studies

Deanships and Centers:

- Deanship of Scientific Research
- Deanship of Graduate Studies.
- Deanship of Admission, Registration and Examination.
- Deanship of Curriculum and Textbooks.
- Assessment Center.
- Open Learning Center. (OLC)
- Continuing Education Center and Community Service (CEC)
- Future Studies and Opinion Polls Center
- Media Production Center (MPC)
- Information Technology and communications Center (ICTC)

Councils of the University:

- University Council

- Quality Council
- Academic Council
- Scientific Research Council
- Strategic Planning Council

QOU in numbers for the year 2016/2017:

- Student body: 56020 students
 - Male: 18513 students
 - Female: 37507 students
- Faculty Staff: 2030 members

QOU Strategic Plan

QOU Strategic Plan aims at achieving the following goals:

- To reach excellence and modernity through applying international standards of quality in all academic and administrative work of the university.
- To continue proposing new drafts, agendas, and initiatives to keep enhancing QOU leading role in the field of education, scientific research and community service.
- To improve the efficiency and competency of the staff at the University to achieve high quality outcomes.
- To strengthen the partnership with various sectors in the local community.
- To implement, develop and promote vision and mission of QOU.
- To identify future requirements, aims and strategies of the University, taking into account the recommendations of the external evaluation of the University.
- To form a committee that monitors and ensures commitment to QOU strategic plan from planning process, performance, and implementation.
- To provide technical support to all QOU departments and centers to facilitate implementation and follow up of their annual agenda.

Vision

Achieving leadership, excellence and innovation in the field of open learning, community service, and scientific research. In addition, reinforcing the University leading role in establishing a Palestinian society built on knowledge and science.

Mission

To prepare qualified graduates equipped with competencies that enable them to address the needs of their community, and compete in both local and regional labor markets. To encourage their innovative contribution in scientific research and human and technical capacity-building through providing students with educational and training programs in accordance with the best practices of open and blended learning approach. As well as through fostering an educational environment

that promotes scientific research in accordance with the latest standards of quality and excellence, and within a framework of exchange and co-operation with community institutions and experts.

Core Values

- Leadership and excellence.
- Patriotism and nationalism.
- Democracy in education and equal opportunities.
- Academic and intellectual freedom.
- Committing to regulations and bylaws.
- Partnership with the community
- Participative management.
- Enforcing the pioneer role of women.
- Integrity and Transparency.
- Competitiveness.

Goals

- Continuous development of the graduates' qualifications, and enhancement of their competitiveness in both local and regional labor market.
- Continuous improvement of the academic and training programs to match the requirements of the labor market and its developments, in accordance with the best practices of blended learning and the latest updates of science and technology.
- Enhancement and promotion of scientific research, innovation, and excellence, as well as support of intellectual freedom.
- Enhancement of cooperation and interaction with the community, and reinforcement of the social responsibility within the University operations.
- Diversification, improvement and increase of the university's financial resources, and the reinforcement of the efficiency and effectiveness of its financial management.
- Progressive improvement of the blended learning environment and the offered services for the students, to achieve high quality in teaching and learning.
- Progressive enhancement of the quantity and quality of academic and technical services to improve the process of teaching and learning

Presidency of the University

Prof. Younes Amr

The president of the University -in coordination with the Board of Trustees- is responsible for managing the academic, administrative and financial affairs in accordance with the bylaws and regulations of the University. Furthermore, the president chairs the University Council and forms various specialized committees to manage the different affairs of the University. Moreover, the

president represents the University at local and international agencies and organizations in regards of various academic matters.

Other tasks include coordination of the president and his staff with the various departments and centers to manage and monitor the daily operations of the University. Furthermore, the president is responsible for the initiation and follow up of strategic development plans, and the supervision of the operations of the different branches with their faculties and departments.

Consequently, the president contributes in the achievement of the University's goals, alongside its vision and mission that aim towards continuous advancement in order to achieve excellence and leadership.

The current President of the University, Prof. Younis Amro holds a PhD in Arabic Language and Semitic languages. Prof. Amro had a long career in education and teaching, he has many publications and articles in the field of language, history, and literature. Prof. Amro occupied many academic, administrative, and public positions such as the chairman of the Palestinian Arabic Language Academy, the General Secretary and Head of Palestine Writers Union, and The Chairman of The Cultural Forum in Hebron. He is also a member of several public institutions such as the University Graduates Union in Hebron, the Board of Trustees of Al-liqa Center for Islamic and Christian Heritage Studies in Palestine, and the Board of Trustees at Alistiqlal University, the Executive Council for Arab Universities Association, the Board of Trustees of the Union of Arabic Language Academies, and the Administrative Board of Palestine National School of Administration. He is also a cultural advisor for several cultural and intellectual journals and periodicals. Prof. Amro managed to obtain several awards, gold medals, certificates, and honorary awards for his accomplishments along the years in education.

Board of Trustees

Pursuant to the University regulations, the Board of Trustees is vested with authority over the University, including all of its centers and other units. Members are appointed by the President of the State of Palestine. The members are from the leading minds of the local community and its various sectors; they have enough competency and experience to lead and manage the University affairs according to its bylaws. The current president of the state of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas, issued a decree in 2014 appointing the following 14 members for the current Board of Trustees at the University:

- **Eng. Adnan Samarah:** Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Chairman of the Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence, the President Consultant for Innovation & Excellence Affairs.
- **Prof. Reyad Al-Khudary:** Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Member of the executive committee at PLO and Head of PLO Department of Education, President of Gaza University.
- **Prof. Abdul-Fattah Abu Shukor:** Professor of Economics at An-Najah National University (Member).

- **Dr. Aziz Shawabka:** Lecturer of Physics at Birzeit University (Member).
- **Dr. Sulayman Al-Khalil:** Associate Professor, Dean of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine, An-Najah National University (Member).
- **Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Mun'em:** Former Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Gaza (Member).
- **Prof. Hani Najem:** Coordinator of the World Bank Project for Higher Education Development, Gaza (Member).
- **Dr. Husein Al-Aaraj:** Minister of Local Government (Member).
- **Dr. Nuha Khoury:** Vice President for Academic Affairs at Dar Al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture, Bethlehem (Member).
- **Mr. Hatem Abdul-Qader:** Former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs. (Member)
- Palestinian Monetary Authority (Member).
- **Mr. Akram A. Jrab:** Chairman of the Administrative Board of Al-Quds Bank (Member).
- **Mr. Yousef Dajani:** Head of the Administrative Council at Jerusalem District Electricity Company (Member).
- **Prof. Younis Amro:** President of Al-Quds Open University (Member).
- **Dr. Eng. Yousef Sabbah:** General Secretary of Board of Trustees.

Achievers and Achievements:

International Awards:

- BID Award

The University obtained BID Quality Award (Century International Gold Quality Era Award) in 2015, for the commitment of the University with high quality standards, leadership, Technology advancement, and innovation. Thus, the University is within the top 50 pioneer institutions in the world in the field of open learning and higher education. The Award is a mark of excellence achieved by organizations which, in the philosophy of continuous improvement, have become drivers of innovation. Receiving a BID Quality Award means receiving the support of a multi-national team of professionals, specialized in the communication, education and promotion of Quality Culture. Behind each award recipient there is also a commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. This commitment to Quality Culture is the force behind companies, organizations and leaders who are recognized for a continuous search for quality and excellence. To receive the BID Quality Award is to become part of a team of companies, institutions, organizations and outstanding visionary business leaders, whose presence in 179 countries worldwide, represents entrepreneurship, success and Total Quality. The University was nominated and chosen based on different criteria such as, students' satisfaction, number of student body, communication system, education system and their quality, social responsibility, planning, human resources, technology advancement, ISO 9000, Leadership, and many other important criteria.

Outstanding Graduates of QOU:

- Ms. Hanan Al Hroub

Hanan Al Hroub is a graduate of Al-Quds Open University received a BA in Primary Education at the faculty of Educational Sciences. She was awarded, in 2016, the Global Teacher Prize, with a value of \$1,000,000. This Award is given to best teachers around the world. Hanan embraces the slogan ‘No to Violence’ and uses a specialist approach detailed in her book, ‘We Play and Learn’. She focuses on developing trusting, respectful, honest and affectionate relationships with her students and emphasizes the importance of literacy. She encourages her students to work together, pays close attention to individual needs and rewards positive behaviour. Her approach has led to a decline in violent behaviour in schools where this is usually a frequent occurrence. She has inspired her colleagues to review the way they teach, their classroom management strategies and the sanctions they use.

- Dr. Laila Ghannam

Dr. Laila Ghannam is a graduate of QOU from the Faculty of Social and Family Development and holds a PhD in Psychology. She became the first female governor in Palestine in 2010. Dr. Ghannam began to serve in Fatah as a student and was quickly elected to its Ramallah council. Later she held a senior position with the organization's security forces, and then served as the welfare minister's head secretary. In 2010, she was appointed as the Governor of Ramallah and El-Bireh district. The position of governor carries a great deal of influence in the Palestinian Authority, as the governor is the figure of most seniority in each district, and appointed by the President of the state. Dr. Ghannam's tasks include heading the security forces operating within her jurisdiction and supervision over all municipality activities.

Regional Awards:

-Alecso Apps Award:

QOU received Alecso Apps Award in 2016 for designing smart devices application for students that contains lectures and educational material. The competition is an annual challenge aiming to motivate and encourage Arab developers to meet high-level standards in term of Mobile Applications quality, innovation and Entrepreneurship.

- The Second Adventure and Challenge Championship for Arab Universities:

The University was awarded the first place in this championship that was organized by the Jordanian Ranger Adventure Camp under the patronage of the Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, Prof. Sultan Abu Orabi Al Odwan between 9-13/5/2012 in Jordan and again in 2013 winning the second place.

International and local awards obtained by graduates and students of QOU:

Name	Award	Year
Hanan El-Hroub	Global Teacher Prize/ BID Award Geneva	2016
Fida Zeetar	Best 50 teachers around the world/ Varkey Foundation UK	2016

Adyan Aqel	First place in Mathematics and Cognitive Intelligence	2016
Ala' Hameed and Hanen Sa'da	Second place in Technology Innovation for Youth Empowerment at the 18 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2016
Salsabel Musa	Second place in Building Institutions at the 18 th students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2016
Diana Abu Jaab	First place for Expotec Commercial Award at Expotec Technological Week/ Palestine	2016
Mais Abu Farha	Second Place in Scientific Research in the field of Social Studies and Humanities at the 18 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2016
Jom'a Abu Hasan	Best Project on Startup Idea Program for Best Eco-project Nationwide/ Palestine	2016
Isra Ghaith	Second place in Electronic Device for Traffic Accidents Investigation/ Sharif Shatrit Award- Palestine	2016
Suliman Ebaid	First place for Quran Reciting	2016
Fida Abu Turkey	King Abdullah the Second Award for Youth Innovation	2016
Adian Akel	First place for the 5 th Exceptional Memory Award/ Algeria	2016
Sundos Abu Jame'	Fourth place for Short Story Award/ Palestine	2016
Taqwa Shibani	Fifth place for Short Story Award/ Palestine	2016
Mouayd Abu Raiya and Fatima Okifan	First place in IT and Engineering Innovation Conference/ Palestine	2016
Hisham Abdelal	The Arab Award for free Writing/ Egypt	2016
Ramzi Abdul Raheem	Trading Simulation in Palestinian Universities Award/ Palestine	2016
Dalia Amro, Ola Abu Halimeh, Alaa' Arar and Asma' Nasser	Third Place in Technology Innovation for Youth and Community Development at the 17 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2015
Osama Nueirat	Second place for Entrepreneur Week Award/ Palestine	2015
Maha Naser	First Place on Education and Workplace needs at the 16 th Students Creative Forum/	2014

	The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	
Ala Tumeazy	Best Volunteer of the Year/ UN Volunteers Award- Palestine	2012
Mohamad Abu Tuhfeh	First place trophy and medal for Jordanian and Palestinian universities championship	2012
Haneen Zeyada	First Place in Scientific Research and Universities Education Development at the 15 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2012
Dalia Jaar	Second Place in Education Quality at the 14 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2011
Ola Tmeizi, Salem Jalaita, Jihan Mansour Sirine Khaled	Best Volunteer of the Year/ UN Volunteers Award- Palestine	2011
Ibrahim Daabas	Innovation Award in Agriculture/ Palestine	2011
Mohamad Kohle	Bronze Medal in Taekwondo/ Arab League-Doha	2011
Thekrayat Damiri	First Place Scientific Research and Universities Education Development at the 13 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2010
Zahya Shanan	Second place Scientific Research and Universities Education Development at the 13 th Students Creative Forum/ The Arab Council for Training Students of Arab Universities - Egypt	2010

-Awards obtained by QOU members:

Date	Name	Award	Award Name
January 2017	Prof. Younis Amro	Famous Arab Figures Award	Ideal Scientific Figure of the Year 2016
January 2016	Mr. Iyad Ishtaya	League of Arab States Award/ Egypt	Exceptional Youth Award for Training and Capacity Development
August 2016	Mr. Baha Thabet	First Place in App development/ Alecso Award	Education apps development award across Palestine

December 2016	Prof. Yousef Awwad	Palestinian Award	Person of the Year 2016 in Palestine
January 2015	Dr. Nidal Al- Masri	Best Research in the Field of Favoritism & Mediation, & their Impact on Social & Administrative Corruption/Saudi Arabia	Grand Alukah Network Competition for enhancing Values, Principles & Ethics
February 2015	Dr. Nidal Al- Masri	First Place in the Field of Universities & Scientific Research in the Arab World/ Qatar	The Arab Award for Social Science & Humanities
January 2015	Mr. Abdulrahman Baraka	Microsoft Award	Microsoft Security Research Acknowledgment
April 2014	Dr. Nidal Al- Masri	Best Educational Research in the Arab World/ UAE	Khalifa Award for Education
April 2014	Mr. Muhammad Al-Agha	Khalifa Award for Education/UAE	Best Research in Corruption, Nepotism and Favoritism
September 2013	Dr. Israa' Amro	Image Processing/ Poland	The Best Paper Award in the Session of Image Processing
August 2013	Dr. Rajaa' Al- Osaily	E- Learning/ Morocco	Rational Management & Higher Education Improvement
August 2013	Dr. Raja Al-Eseili	Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World	Good Governance and the Development of University Education
July 2011	Dr. Ibrahim Rabaya	First Place in the Competition/ Palestine	Achieving Plans Award
July 2009	Dr. Raja Al-Eseili	Award for best teaching techniques provided by USAID/ Palestine	Teaching Excellence Award
May 2007	Mr. Imad Abu Saada	The Return Award/ Palestine	Best Nakba Poster

University Accomplishments

QOU's Administrative, academic and technical staff channels their efforts towards shaping the University as a pillar of education in the Palestinian society, and setting a platform for sustainable human development, self-reliance and independency. Following this philosophy, the University has been able to accumulate important achievements along the years since its establishment as follows:

-Academic Accomplishments

- Establishment of the faculty of Graduate Studies which offers two majors; Arabic language and literature, and Psychological and Educational Counseling.
- Establishment of a Media Faculty and an Art Faculty that offer Bachelor degrees in various fields.
- Adoption of blended learning approach (open learning combined with e-learning) for all the offered courses.
- Upgrading the content of some courses to be in the form of electronic educational packages.
- Adoption of Mobile Learning method (content can be taught and uploaded using smart devices for some courses.)
- Design of the first Arabic MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in Palestine and the Arab World about the history of Jerusalem.
- Establishment of advanced labs for virtual libraries. The labs are equipped with computers, printers and smart screens according to the latest updates.
- Design of a comprehensive program for the management of QOU libraries.
- The Establishment of the Palestinian Center of Excellence in E-Learning for research and consultations, supervised by a national committee that represents most academic sectors in Palestine.
- Contribution in preparing and issuing the first Guide of Quality Assurance and Accreditation Standards in the Arab World in the field of Open Learning, with the cooperation of Association of Arab Universities.
- Development of a new BA program in Special Needs Education under the Faculty of Social and Family Development.
- Accreditation of a new Diploma program in Teacher Training by the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission and the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.
- Development of a new specialization in the field of Healthcare Management in several QOU branches.
- The continuous design and composition of new textbooks in various fields such as, Introduction to Public Health, Epidemiology, Financial Planning and Analysis, and many more.
- Establishment of a database for examinations in cooperation with ICTC.
- Establishment of a Mobile Educational Center (educational van) to improve educational opportunities in the marginalized areas in the South of Palestine equipped with computers, books and e-textbooks, which travels between schools and facilitate access to educational resources.

- Implementation of professional and technical trainings funded by international organizations such as Mercy Corps, GIZ, American Consulate, UNRWA to improve the capacities and skills of youths and public servants employees in IT, strategic planning in health and safety, administrative skills, teaching, and research development at schools and universities.
- Establishment of partnership projects with the local community (some in partnership with international institutions such as the Open University of Cyprus, UNOPS) in terms of awareness campaigns in relation to the importance of land protection and registration, home buyers awareness, introducing innovative learning practices to the educational system in Palestine, development of the internal capacity of the Palestinian Civil Police.

-Infrastructure Accomplishments

- Construction of new campuses across the state to facilitate access to education for all Palestinian communities.
- Horizontal and vertical expansion of the University to encompass the increasing rate of the enrolled students, and create supportive environment for open learning.
- Intensive fundraising efforts are carried out throughout the campuses to elevate the educational network of premises, centers, and facilities.

-Technological Accomplishments

- Development of various e-learning services and contribution in the improvement of e-education in Palestine.
- Contribution in disseminating knowledge in the field of IT through organizing different events and projects.
- Development of the largest network of internet among the academic institutions in Palestine.
- Operating and hosting the EUMEDCONNECT which is an Internet network that is dedicated to create a high-capacity network for research and education communities. Besides operating the network, The University was responsible for expanding it to other educational institutions in Palestine till 2011.
- Establishment of three computer labs equipped with the latest IT developments specialized for students with visual disabilities to ensure their engagement in the learning process across Palestine, framing the north, center, and south (Jenin, Ramallah, and Hebron.)
- Establishment of three centers, ICTC, OLC and MPC for developing e-learning.
- Establishment of an integrated e-learning environment through utilizing computerized systems to manage all the learning procedures, in cooperation with ICTC, which plays a key role in managing and monitoring the e-learning process.
- Participation in Avicenna Knowledge Center, a project that engages a consortium of fifteen AVICENNA virtual Knowledge Centers (universities) to exchange experience and pedagogical innovation among Mediterranean and European universities in the field of open learning. Consequently, QOU established OLC to supervise the project in cooperation with ICTC. Moreover, QOU submitted a proposal to the UNESCO to disseminate the project to other Palestinian universities, and was later approved.

- QOU is the only university in Palestine to establish a multimedia center for producing multimedia educational materials (MPC). The center produces recorded lectures that utilize live streaming feature, in addition to documentaries in various fields, and a broadcast of QOU TV channel with its various educational programs.
- Organization of the World Cup in computing and internet, in which QOU obtained the fourth place in 2008 and 2009, and organizing the world champion in Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word, in which QOU obtained the first place in 2008 and 2009. The events were organized by the University for three consecutive years (2007, 2008, and 2009).
- The addition of Palestine, with the effort of ICTC, to the list of certified countries by institutions worldwide that are specialized in IT such as Microsoft, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and Certipoint, opening the doors for other Palestinian institutions to join as well. Furthermore, through obtaining membership at these IT institutions worldwide, has enabled QOU to hold international certified trainings and tests such as TOEFL and ICDL.
- Organization of QOU's " ICT day" annual event, initiated in 2005, which aims at promoting utilization of the latest updates of IT in the field of education, expanding the cooperation with international and local institutions specialized in IT, and disseminating knowledge in the field of IT to the local community.
- Launch of QOU educational TV Channel which broadcasts various materials in the aspects of health, education, sport, tourism and hospitality. The channel aims at raising the knowledge of the local community about different topics, promoting the blended learning approach, highlighting the social responsibility of the University, and cooperating with other Arabic and international institutions to encompass other cultures.

Membership:

Al-Quds Open University is a full member of the following educational associations and institutions:

- Association of Arab Universities (AARU)
- Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW)
- International Council for Open Distance Education (ICDE)
- Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU)
- Open Digital Space Organization for the Mediterranean (E-OMED)
- Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)
- International Association of Universities (IAU)
- Euro-Mediterranean Consortium of Professionals and Experts (EUMED).
- European University Continuing Education Network (EUCEN)

Strengths of the University according to the 2016 SWOT report:

- Geographical spread of the University's branches across all the governorates in Palestine.
- High flexibility of the open learning method.
- Existence of a specialized ICT Center.
- Existence of an Alumni Unit.
- Existence of a System for Examinations Quality Control and Assessment.

- Existence of a Center for Assessment.
- Existence of important centers at the University such as the Open Learning Center of Excellence for e-learning programs.
- Existence of qualified human resources on academic, professional and administrative level.
- Existence of the Department of Curriculum and Textbooks Design.
- Accreditation for the Graduate Studies Program.
- Existence of comprehensive sets of bylaws, regulations and procedures that address most aspects of the University's work.
- Experience in the management and development of e-learning resources.
- Existence of policies that support the structures of scientific research.
- Existence of a Unit for Innovation and Excellence.
- Existence of refereed journals.
- Existence of a specialized financial system and financial staff.
- Existence of a Unit for External and Internal Audit.
- Existence of the Continuing Education and Community Service Center (CEC)
- Solid relations and active memberships with most of the organizations and associations specialized in the field of education in universities, open learning, and e-Learning.
- Existence of a strategy for social responsibility of the University.
- Existence of efficient and fair bylaws and regulations for assessing students and workers.
- Experience in developing databases for examinations.
- Admission, registration, and examination systems and procedures continuously updated and evaluated.
- Existence of a quality assurance policy and bylaw at the University.
- Experience in and existence of an assessment system at the University.
- Existence of an institutionalized system for strategic planning.
- Existence of a functional database system for all employees at the University.
- Existence of a strong and active Students' Union.
- Existence of leaders with clear visions for development and constructive control.
- Existence of academic, administrative and technical committees and councils to monitor and manage different academic matters.
- Existence of effective technological infrastructure and IT network.
- Existence of a T.V channel owned by the University.

Al Quds Open University International Projects

1. Name of the project: Virtual Reality as an innovative and immersive Learning tools for HEIs in Palestine

- **Implementing organization:** Al Isteqlal University as applicant
- **Partners:** American Arab University of Jenin (AAUJ) - PS Alquds Open University (QOU) - PS Polytechnique University of Khadoori (PTKU) – PS ESSTD – Manouba University – TUN UVT – Université Virtuelle de Tunis – TUN

- **Donor:** Erasmus + programme / Capacity Building in field of Higher Education
- **Project Summary :** the project aims to improve the quality of education in marginalized areas (C) in The northern Jordan Valley region, through providing an educational center equipped with a computer lab and a library on a truck traveling between marginalized areas and schools which do not have a computer laboratories,, to be used by students and the community in cooperation with village councils, local governance and the Directorate of Tubas.

2. Name of the project: Research Output Management through Open Access Institutional Repositories in Palestinian Higher Education (ROMOR)

- **Implementing organization:** Islamic University Of Gaza is the main applicant and the coordinator of the Project.
- **Partners:** 1. the board of trustees of the Birzeit University (bzu) 2. Al-Quds open university (qou) 3. technische universitaet wien (tuwien) 4. universita degli studi di parma (parma) 5. university of brighton (bu) 6. university of glasgow (gla) 7. palestine technical university - kadoorie (kad)
- **Donor:** ERASMUS + Programme/ Capacity Building in higher education
- **Project Summary:** The ROMOR Project aims over the course of three years to build capacity on research output management in four leading PS HEIs by establishing Open Access Institutional Repositories. The training which is required to establish these repositories, and then their implementation, population and management will be the core of the Project. Learning outcomes from these activities will also be shared and disseminated in a variety of ways, including the establishment of mechanisms to assist proactively other institutions in setting up and managing repositories. This Project aims to improve not only the visibility and the management of scientific research, but also to support the advocacy in support of open access to research outputs and to foster scholarly communication and coordination between PS HEIs.

3. Name of the project: Develop the Capacity of Business and Economic Research Centers at the Palestinian HIEs

- **Implementing organization:** The applicant of BEREC project is The Islamic University of Gaza (IUG).
- **Partners:** This project includes six partners country (5 higher education institutions and one associate partner) and four EU Partners. The partners country includes: IUG, AUG, BZU, QOU, UCAS, and AQAC. The EU partners includes: UNIVIQ, HUD, UAL, KTH .

- **Donor:** ERASMUS + Programme/ Capacity Building in higher education
- **Project Summary:** The project aims to connect the researchers into a research hub that increase the monitoring and evaluation. BERC helps to initiate research hub, applied EU standards, available for local and international stakeholders. The aim of the hub as well as the research centers is to make important research available to the widest possible audience. Wherever possible, subject to author contributions and copyright constraints, it contains the full text of articles, conference papers, and book chapters.

This project aims to achieve atmosphere for researchers so that they can conduct researchers with high quality and provide international journals with scientific publications that meet international standards.

Main objectives include:

1. To develop and reinforce quality standards for business and economic research centers of Palestinian Higher Institutions.
1. To capacity building of research unit's staff for business and economic research centers of Palestinian Higher Institutions (Including standards, methodology, examination and supervision,, etc.).
2. To develop national and international partnerships for networking activities among the Business & Economic research centers.
3. To promote alignment and optimization of undergraduate and postgraduate programs with respect to the strategic research clusters, including expand research opportunities and resources that attract and support a robust number of postgraduate fellows.
4. To tackle societal challenges and developing innovative solutions through engage in long-term collaborative research projects and partnerships.

Mobility Projects

Under Key Action 1, – Mobility for learners and staff – Higher Education Student and Staff Mobility within Erasmus + Program, Al Quds Open University has signed Inter-institutional agreements with several regional and international universities to cooperate in providing mobility opportunities for students and staff in different disciplines and fields particularly in Technology and Education. In this regards, it signed Inter- institutional agreements with University of Malaga, Middle East Technical University (METU), Open University of Cyprus and Osmaniye Korkut Ata University/Turkey.